

Christ Church
187 Washington Street, southwest corner
of Washington and Henry Streets
Binghamton
Broome County
New York

HABS No. NY-5566

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. NY-5566

CHRIST CHURCH

Location: 187 Washington Street, southwest corner of Washington and Henry Streets, Binghamton, Broome County, New York.

Present Owner: Christ Church.

Present Occupant: Christ Church.

Present Use: Episcopal Church.

Brief Statement of Significance: One of several upstate New York Episcopal churches designed by Richard Upjohn, architect of Trinity Church in New York City. The oldest organized church in Binghamton.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners:
The church was built for present occupant.
2. Date of erection: 1853-1855.
3. Architect: Richard Upjohn.
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: Upjohn's design showed a spire, but only the tower was built. Finally in 1903, the spire was added.
5. Builder or contractor, suppliers: J. Stewart Wells of Binghamton, contractor. The bluestone came from quarries near Guilford, New York.
6. Alterations and additions: In 1903, J. Stewart Wells, original contractor, added spire according to Upjohn's plan. It was built at the contractor's expense to house a set of eleven bells donated by C. M. Jarvis. The stone quarries near Guilford, New York, were re-opened to get matching bluestone like that for the earlier church construction. A tinted lithograph rendering of Christ Church, complete with spire, is in the Broome County Historical Society's collection at the Roberson Memorial Center, Binghamton, but old photographs show the church roof with no spire. In 1910, the earlier wooden piers

were replaced by stone designed to conform to traditional design. (See Upjohn, Upjohn, p. 110). Aside from normal repairs, redecoration, installation of memorials, lighting, and similar work, there appears to have been little major alteration.

- B. Historical Events and Persons Associated with the Structure:
The architect, Richard Upjohn, was perhaps the most celebrated person to be associated with this building. Joshua Whitney, II, the founder of Binghamton, was also a founder of this church. Rev. Harry S. Longley, later Bishop of Iowa, was a rector here.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old Views: Panoramic photograph of Binghamton from Court House dome, taken in 1856, and other photographs, Broome County Historical Society collections; Early lithograph in color showing Upjohn's original design of exterior is in the Broome County Historical Society's collection at the Roberson Memorial Center, 30 Front Street, Binghamton.

2. Bibliography:

Bartoo, Elfred H. in Seward, William F. Binghamton and Broome County: A History. Vol. I, p. 322. Lewis Hist. Pub. Co. New York & Chicago, 1924.

McCall, Georgia DeWitt and Ruth Stabler Palmer. Christ Church. (a brochure) 12 pp. Published by the Vestry of Christ Church, Binghamton, New York. 1960. Gives a historical resume, on the occasion of 150th anniversary of the founding of the church.

Upjohn, Everard M. Richard Upjohn, Architect and Churchman. New York: Columbia.

Wilkinson, J. B. The Annals of Binghamton of 1840, with an Appraisal 1840-1967. Binghamton: The Times Association, 1872. pp 245-246.

- D. Likely Sources not yet Investigated:
Research of Church archives might reveal additional information.

Prepared by Clement C. Bowers
Binghamton, New York
June 30, 1963

PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records are part of the documentation of structures in the Southern Tier of New York State, undertaken by HABS in cooperation with the Broome County Historical Society and the Valley Development

Foundation, Inc.

The project was under the general supervision of John Poppeliers, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. The historical material was prepared by Clement G. Bowers, June, 1963. Photographs were taken by Jack E. Boucher in March, 1963. The project was edited for deposit in the Library of Congress by Constance Werner Ramirez, November, 1974.